

We don't have enough jobs for the American people now. We have a surplus of labor in this country. If you believe in free markets, colleagues, that is why, since 1999 until last year, median household income in America is down \$4,000 per family. A big part of that is an excessive labor flow into the United States. It is not disputable, colleagues.

Look at the great professor on this, Professor Borjas of Harvard. Born in Cuba himself, he came here as a young person. Dr. Borjas shows that an excessive labor flow pulls down wages. Why would it not? It is a commonsense, free market principle. He documented it through labor reports, census data, and there is no doubt about it. We are hammering American working people. Their lives are being diminished while some make more money because they pay a lower wage.

I am not saying we are going to end immigration. Nobody is talking about that. But we have extremely high immigration levels legally, and on top of that we have this massive illegality. So the first thing the American people have asked us to do is end the illegality, please. They have been pleading for that for 30 years, and all we have here is some complaint about any bill that actually takes a step toward that end getting blocked. We can't even get votes on amendments.

I just want to say that I think the American people are correct. Any nation state that sees itself as sovereign, sees itself as having a loyalty to its own people, should protect those people from unfair policies, should defend their legitimate interests, and we are not doing it.

We are pulling down wages right now. There are people that don't have jobs today. We have the lowest percentage of Americans with a job than we have had in 40 years. Last month we created 38,000 jobs—a paltry, shockingly low number. It sent some shock waves through the business community. We need to have close to 200,000 a month. We are bringing in almost 100,000 immigrants a month.

From 2000 to 2014—14 years—the native born population of the United States has increased throughout that period by millions. How many jobs were created and how many jobs did native born Americans get during that period? None. The actual number of workers from 2000 to 2014 went down. All jobs that were created during that period of time went to the foreign born. Is it any surprise that wages have fallen? Is it any surprise that we have gone from around a low \$50,000-a-year median American income for a family to \$4,000 less? It is simple.

Somebody needs to talk about this and defend the legitimate concerns of families in this country and working Americans.

I want to say a couple more things. The outcome of this Court ruling is not going to cause any major change in what is happening today; in fact, we

have been living under the policies that the Court ordered for some time now. It is not going to change. We are not going to have any mass roundups as people have suggested. That is ridiculous. The President has ordered, basically, an end to deportation except for those who commit serious crimes. Secretary Clinton has said the crime has to be a violent crime or terrorism connected before they get deported. So we are heading in that direction.

This is not a sound policy for America.

We are going to have to work our way through the many difficulties we have in the future, but the simple demand we have from the majority of the people, I believe, is to end the illegality. Do that first, and then we will talk about what we are going to do next about the people who have been here for a long time.

A lot of people just came. They just used a fraudulent identification or drove across the border or they were caught and released on bail and went to Los Angeles or Chicago or somewhere. Do they get to demand to be given legal status in America? Do they get to demand to be made a citizen when other people around the world who have waited for their time may never get into the United States because they don't qualify? That is the question we are facing.

I truly believe that we believe in immigration as Americans in this country. We are always going to have immigration, but the level of it and the nature of it should be such that we admit people who are most likely to be successful, to flourish and to benefit America, and not people who are going to have a hard time, who don't speak English and don't have skills that we need in this country today. I believe it is wrong to bring in more workers, particularly with low skills, who compete directly against Americans who are trying to get a job, pulling down their wages while making it harder for them to get a job. I think that is going beyond what the responsibility of the government is.

It is our responsibility to follow the law as it is written, and it is the President's responsibility under his oath and duties as the Chief Executive and the chief law enforcement officer in America to see that our laws are enforced. If he wants to come back again with some other changes in the law, let him bring it up. Let's talk about it. But he does not get to do that on his own. I am pleased that the Supreme Court has stopped him at least with regard to this specific program, the so-called DAPA program.

I appreciate the opportunity to share these remarks.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I have been on the floor quite a bit in the past several months talking about a topic I think the vast majority of Americans want us to focus on, and that is the economy. That is, in my opinion, something we don't do enough here, and certainly the current administration doesn't do enough. They never even seem to want to talk about the economy, and they do not because the news isn't good. When they do try to talk about the economy, they typically try to spin the facts and the bad news into good news. For the most part, as has become abundantly clear, when they do this, the media tries to repackaging it, put a bow on it, and then the administration sells it back to the American public. Everything is going great, they tell us, or to use the language of the President's speechwriter and one of his chief spin doctors, in a recent New York Times magazine piece, he stated:

We created an echo chamber. . . . They—

The media—

were saying things that validated what we had given them to say.

So to put that in simple terms: We tell them our spin, they print it, and that is good.

Well, with regard to the economy, I don't think many in America are buying it. And I am glad our Presidential candidates are finally starting to talk about this issue—economic growth for middle-class families. Secretary Clinton recently gave a speech on the economy where she mostly lambasted her opponent. She said that under Mr. Trump, the U.S. economy would be a disaster. Well, no disrespect to the former Secretary of State and former Senator, but in case Mrs. Clinton didn't notice, the economy already is a disaster right now, and we need to fix it.

I want to talk about that a little bit because it is something you never hear about from the media, from the administration, even from this body enough, to be honest, and yet Americans are feeling it all across the country. Under this administration, we have now had the worst economic recovery since the Great Depression. The executive branch may have a reverberating echo chamber, but the American people know what is going on when it comes to the economy, and it is not a pretty picture.

Let me provide some examples of the Obama administration's anemic economy and what it has done to the thing we all believe in—we all believe in—and that is the American dream.

First, let's talk about our country's gross domestic product. As you know, the GDP of the United States is really a marker for our country's health. It is

basically a marker of American progress. It is a marker of the American dream. And with regard to the health of the economy, right now it is not healthy. We have a sick economy.

Last quarter, this economy grew at only 0.8 percent GDP growth. It essentially didn't grow. To put that in perspective, if you look at one of the things that have made our Nation great, it is that year after year, decade after decade, Democratic or Republican administration, we have always typically grown at traditional levels of American GDP growth—3 percent, 3.5 percent, 4 percent GDP growth, 5 percent, 6 percent in some eras.

Looking at this chart, which I have brought to the floor many times, it looks at the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. Obviously, there are ups and downs. There was some really strong growth—Kennedy, Johnson, Reagan, Clinton; 4 percent, 4.5 percent, 5 percent GDP growth. But this red line right here, this 3 percent, that is at least the number we need to hit, that everybody thinks we should be hitting. For most administrations, it has been way above that. In the 8 years now with President Obama, it never hit once—not once. Never hit 3 percent GDP growth.

That is not what we were promised by this administration when they put forward their policies, many of which, in the early years of this administration, were supported by the Congress. Remember the stimulus package? Remember the Affordable Care Act? These were all things that were going to stimulate the economy. As a matter of fact, we were told—and these were numbers from the Obama administration—that by 2010, we would see 3 percent GDP growth, and that by 2011 to 2014, we would be at 4.1 percent GDP growth. That would have been good. Four percent is strong. That is what they told us. That is what they predicted with their policies. We never came close, and now they do not talk about that. You never hear the President talk about 3 percent, 4 percent. He sure did a lot early on. But their policies drove us in the other direction.

Now even the Federal Reserve, noting that we don't even hit 2 percent GDP growth any more, is essentially saying these numbers are not going to improve. They predicted just a couple of weeks ago that maybe we will hit 2 percent in the next 2 to 3 years—stagnant growth, surrendering the American dream. Yet nobody is talking about this.

This is the biggest issue facing our country. As Michael Boskin, a very well respected Stanford economics professor, stated recently, "Mr. Obama will likely go down as having the worst economic growth record of any president since the trough of the Great Depression in 1933." That is right here. These are his numbers, by the way, right here.

So that is one thing, GDP growth. Let's talk about jobs. The American

people are feeling what is happening with regard to jobs. Yes, the President likes to tout an unemployment rate that is going down. While that is true, the main reason the unemployment rate is going down is because the labor force participation rate is crashing. So most of the unemployment rate declines the President likes to talk about, his administration likes to talk about, have occurred because people have stopped looking for work. They have quit. They are done. They are so discouraged, they have just quit.

Let me give an example. Last month, in May, the jobs report sounded like a pretty good jobs report. Unemployment went from 5.1 percent down to 4.7 percent. That normally sounds good. But what really happened? Only 38,000 jobs were created and almost 700,000 Americans quit looking for work. They just quit. They were that frustrated. That is how we have this unemployment rate going down, not because of strong growth or a strong economy but because the American worker—the greatest workforce in the world, which built this amazing country—is now saying: I have had enough. I am so discouraged, I am just going to stop looking for a job. And that sends the unemployment rate down.

As I mentioned, year after year, the labor force participation rate has gone down dramatically and—I know this is kind of an economic term—a little wonky. I think it is really a measure of the optimism or the hope of the American worker. I like to call it the American worker hope index, and if you look at where it is right now, we haven't had a hope index this low since the malaise of the Carter years. As a matter of fact, the hope index we have right now under President Obama—just look at that—is cratering. It is the same as it was in 1978.

So, Mr. President, that is the job situation. That is what is happening with the hope of American workers, but also, just looking at the straight numbers, in the last 7 years Americans have become poorer. Under the President—under his administration—real median household income has gone down by 2.3 percent, from \$54,920 to \$53,600. That doesn't seem like a lot, this number, but for decades the trend and this number, of course, have always been up—always. So the fact that it is going in the wrong direction is a very bad sign. Essentially, Americans and their families have become poorer.

The same with home ownership. Look at this number. One of the biggest indicators of the American dream is home ownership. Again, the number is going in the wrong direction. Household income and home ownership are down, causing Americans to increasingly have to rely on government assistance. We are a proud people. This is not what most Americans want to be doing. Yet, when we look at the number of Americans on food stamps, it has almost increased by 40 percent—40 percent—from 33 million Americans to

nearly 46 million. These are people who want to work. These are people who want jobs to care for their families. Yet that number is soaring.

Finally, I want to talk briefly about the Nation's fiscal outlook. If we want to talk about a number that is soaring, look at this number: The national debt of the United States—literally, one of the most important issues facing our Nation—has essentially doubled since the President took office. The national debt was \$10 trillion. Today it has exploded to over \$19 trillion. No other President in the history of the United States has racked up so much debt and done so much damage to the balance sheet of our Nation. Let me give one example.

Our debt now is so high, for the first time in U.S. history, our AAA credit rating—the full faith and credit of the United States. We have always had it, ever since there has been a rating, for 70 years. It was downgraded. A lot of people forget that. It was downgraded.

I look at these hard-working pages and this debt issue. If we don't get control of it, if the Congress doesn't get control of it, if the administration doesn't, it is going to be on their backs, our young people, and that is simply—simply—not fair.

I would like to summarize. The number of people giving up looking for work in our country has increased dramatically by the millions; wages for jobs have been stagnant; household incomes—families, essentially—have become poorer; economic growth is at alltime lows, at least in the last 70 years; the dream of buying a house is slipping away; and the national debt has exploded. This is the economy of this administration.

What is still interesting is 7½ years after they took office—with their policies, where they promised a 4-percent GDP growth, strong job growth—they are still looking in the rearview mirror, and when they are shown some of these numbers, they point fingers at the people who came before them, after nearly two terms in office. Well, this is the President's economy. He owns it. He should take responsibility for it, and he should start talking about it and instituting policies that start to change this, but we don't hear him or his administration do that. We don't hear them tout their record. They start to focus on this echo chamber. Fortunately, others in the public eye are more forthcoming. We are starting to talk about it more on the Senate floor. I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would come out and talk about it a little bit.

Certainly, as I mentioned, former Senator Clinton was talking about it, and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, has been talking about the economy. To be honest, President Clinton has actually put his finger on what is happening. He stated:

Millions and millions and millions and millions of people look at that pretty picture of [the America economy] Obama [has] painted

and they cannot find themselves in it to save their lives.

Former President Clinton also recently said this:

The problem is, 80 percent of the American people are still living on what they were living on the day before the [2008 financial] crash. And about half the American people, after you adjust for inflation, are living on what they were living on the last day I was president 15 years ago.

That is what the matter is. That is former President Clinton. Even Secretary Clinton has apparently decided it is prudent to step out of the echo chamber of the administration she used to work for and confirm to the American people what is happening because when you leave Washington, DC, you see it, you hear it.

In an interview with the Washington Post on Tuesday, she talked about how our current economy has failed many in this country. She even stated:

What people are feeling is that the economy failed them, their government failed them. You don't have to go just to coal country to see that. You can go to a lot of parts of America, where people had good, decent jobs that provided a good middle class life for them and their kids. That was the American Dream. That's how we used to define it.

That is a former Secretary of State, former Senator, who is putting her finger on what is actually happening.

We need to rekindle the American dream. We need to rekindle traditional levels of American growth. Our economy is sick. The American worker can't find the great jobs that have sustained him and her in the past. What this body needs to do is focus more on these issues. Certainly, what the Obama administration needs to do is level with the American people about these challenges because besides protecting the Nation's national security, the No. 1 thing we can be doing here is focusing on policies that drive economic growth, that drive true hope, and job creation. That is what we need to be doing more of in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from the great State of Alaska.

REMEMBERING FREDERICK CHARLES "BULLDOG" BECKER IV

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am going to be getting on an airplane tomorrow morning to head home to join with Alaskans who are coming together to celebrate the life of a man I affectionately know as "Bulldog." This is Frederick Charles Becker IV. I think that as Alaskans gather to celebrate the life of a truly extraordinary man who served his country so honorably, we will remember with great fondness a veteran who was passionate about his country, a veteran who was passionate about his State, and a veteran who truly had a love of life that he shared with so many of us. I know I was certainly honored to call him friend, and I believe that Senator SULLIVAN, who is presiding over the Senate this hour,

shared that same affection for truly a great man.

There is always a lot of speculation about someone's name. When you have a name like Bulldog, there are a lot of questions. How did he come to be named Bulldog? Was it because his family had a passion for raising and breeding and showing English bulldogs? I didn't even know that. Apparently, they had a lot of English bulldogs. But that is really not why he carries that nickname. He took the moniker of "Bulldog" because of his tenacity.

Those of us who know him say, yes, of course, that is appropriate. Nobody knows this better than Bulldog's brothers at the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 43-1 and the Alaska Veterans Motorcycle Club, who will be out in force tomorrow to honor one of their own.

I had an opportunity this afternoon to meet with a fellow veteran and member of the Alaska Veterans Motorcycle Club who is leaving tonight so that he can get to Anchorage tomorrow, where so many of those who loved Bulldog will be gathering to ride to Fort Richardson for this service. It will truly be a sight to be seen.

Bulldog Becker was born in Petersburg, VA, on May 28, 1943. He married his wife Betty on January 12, 1963. He joined the Air Force and relocated to Dover, DE. He served three tours in Vietnam. Ultimately, he was transferred to Elmendorf Air Force Base just outside of Anchorage. Bulldog and Betty moved three kids, as well as three bulldogs and a cat. They all came up the Alaska Highway in a Dodge van. They were towing a trailer that had the infamous sign on the back that said "Alaska or Bust." They were living the dream.

Bulldog lived a life that was truly focused around his country. He retired from the military in 1981 as a master sergeant. He then transitioned to a civilian career in retail loss prevention, rising to the position of regional asset protection manager for Sears.

If you had a chance to spend any time with Bulldog over these past many years, you know that as a veteran and as a patriot, Bulldog was not shy to talk about how he felt his fellow veterans were treated when they returned home from the Vietnam war. He was a bulldog in his approach, if you will. He was determined that no future veteran would suffer the same treatment. He was so thoroughly devoted to this principle. He was at every ceremony, every recognition. Any time there were opportunities to welcome brothers- and sisters-in-arms as they returned to our bases, as they returned to our community, Bulldog was always there. He was always there.

Bulldog was instrumental in organizing the annual Byers Lake Memorial Day motorcycle run. I want to digress a moment from his life to talk about the significance of this event because it is, for me, probably one of the most powerful and meaningful Memo-

rial Day tributes that I have ever been able to participate in, and I go or try to go every year. I missed this year. I say that with a heaviness because I always look forward to being with the Veterans Motorcycle Clubs. Every now and again, I would get the honor of riding on the bikes with them. Bulldog is there front and center every year; he is a participant.

This Alaska State Veterans Memorial is located off the Parks Highway at Byers Lake. If you are driving the road between Anchorage and Fairbanks, you might not even notice it because it is 147 miles from Anchorage and it is 214 miles from Fairbanks. You are midway in between on the highway. It sits up on a hilltop in an extraordinarily picturesque spot. As you look out to the memorial itself, the way it is framed, when Denali is out, it is sitting front and center, spectacular as it possibly can be. It will take your breath away. The monument, tucked into the trees, gives you a sense of serenity, of peace, but also extraordinary pride in the men and women who served us there.

I give you a little bit of a geography lesson to remind you that this is not an easy place to get to on a Memorial Day. It is in between the two big cities, the two anchors. To make the trip out there, as so many of our veterans do, is truly an opportunity to pay tribute in a way that is meaningful. This is more than just getting up, having a late breakfast, and going to the Memorial Day services on the Anchorage Park Strip or in downtown Fairbanks. This is a special place, led by special Alaskans, led by special veterans, and Bulldog was one of those.

The recollection I will have moving forward is, whether it is a Memorial Day gathering at Byers Lake, whether it is the salute to the military, whether it is the Veterans Day ceremonies, whether it is the many parades, whether it is the Forgotten Soldiers ceremony, in my mind, Bulldog is always part of that picture, and he will always be part of that picture for me.

As Bulldog joins Betty, his beloved wife of 51 years, in Heaven, he leaves a strong, multigenerational family legacy of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am honored to have known this distinguished Alaskan. I am proud to share his story with my Senate colleagues. I will take the love so many of us have for this man and treasured veteran to my grave because he truly is one of the greats.

With that, I thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.